

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

January 7, 2018

Baptism of Our Lord

*Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29 (3)
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11*



A New Life in Jesus. *Object:* Several new items.

Sometimes, when we meet a friend we may say, "What's new?" All of us like new things, don't we? You have probably spent hours playing with the new toys and electronic gadgets you received for Christmas.

One thing I really enjoy is a new beginning. We are at the beginning of a new year. What an exciting time! It is a chance to start over. It is a time to try to do things better than we did last year.

Today, we are going to talk about another new beginning. It is the beginning of a new life. A new life in Jesus.

In the Bible we read about a man called John the Baptist. John went all around the countryside in Judea telling people to repent and ask God to forgive them of their sins. When they confessed their sin and asked God to forgive them, John baptized them in the river Jordan. They were baptized to show the world that God had forgiven their sins and they were washed clean. This was a new beginning for them.

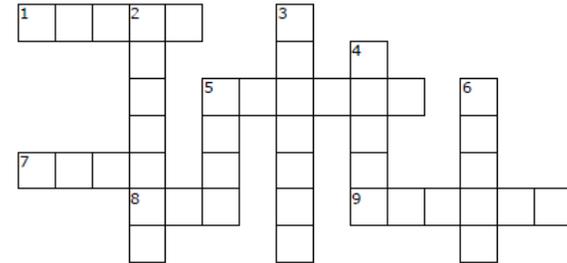
We still baptize people today. Perhaps some of you have been baptized. When we are baptized, it is a picture of what Jesus has done for us. He died, was buried, and rose again to wash away our sin and give us a new life in him. Now, that's what I call a new beginning!

Dear Father, we thank you that Jesus washes away our sins and gives us a new life. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. What was heard when Jesus was baptized.
5. The river where Jesus was baptized.
7. The Spirit came down from heaven like a ____.
8. To break one of God's commandments.
9. To turn away from sin.

DOWN

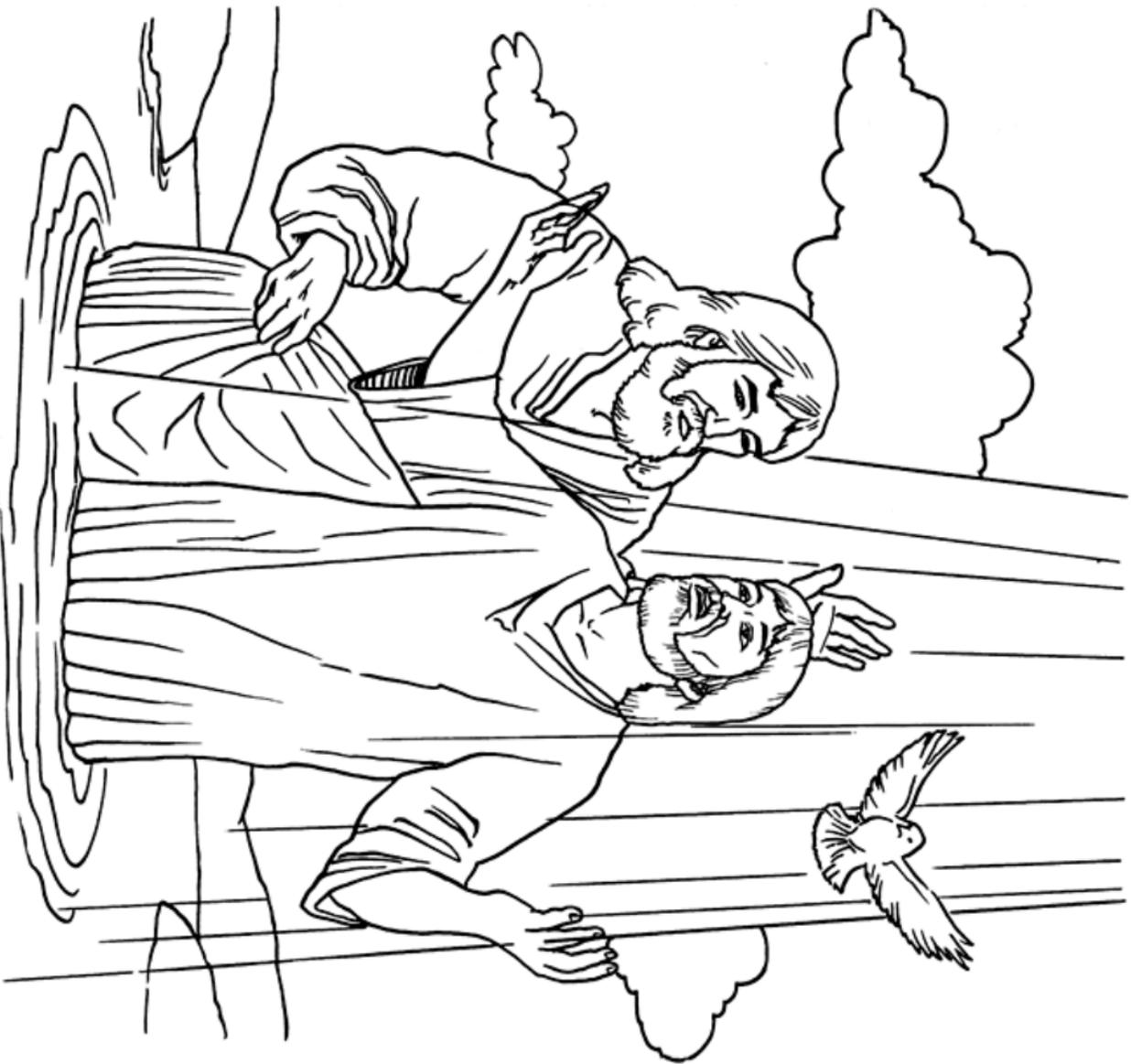
2. To admit that you have done wrong.
3. To pardon for sins.
4. The liquid used to baptize someone.
5. Name of the man who baptized Jesus.
6. A sticky, sweet fluid made by bees.

FORGIVE	JORDAN	JOHN	DOVE	REPENT
CONFESS	WATER	SIN	VOICE	HONEY

CROSS BOOKMARKER: Provide the child with a cross (on card stock) to trace and cut out and decorate with glitter glue and markers. Tie a thin red ribbon to a hole punched in the top and let the child write **NEW LIFE IN JESUS**. Tell the child the red ribbon can remind them of Jesus' blood that was shed for our sins.



A NEW LIFE IN JESUS MARK 1



JESUS' BAPTISM

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